



all quarrelling for places among  
country towns was abated by  
my printing a list of these banners,  
the arms of the towns names,  
& placing them, according to my  
knowledge of the value of what  
they would bring, either in attractive  
force or conversational power or  
prestige of name. Perhaps it is  
concomitant as arbitrary. — If so  
who but knows the fact but you  
& I — for I never told it before.  
& it is now with the buried most  
of years beyond the flood — none but  
an expert of geologists or a philosophi-  
cal historian taking any account  
of things infinitely small, & dead too  
except in inferences & consequences. —  
Millions of such, like microscopic shells  
in rock, make such an agglomeration  
that one as a student to find a single  
one distinct in one's memory.

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MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN.



Will you pardon my writing  
to you on this sort of scrap pa-  
per left over,

— "Like the remainder huroent  
After a voyage?" —

Motives of Economy &c in my  
waterproof bound & empty journals. To  
save, I calculate, if the friends  
will bear it of me, — some enough  
from such sources, to pay for many  
a little present service to the cause.  
You remember doubtless the story  
of John Slater <sup>the English mechanic</sup> who set up the  
machinery of the first cotton mill  
from Oldbury, in Rhode Island? —  
It was up — but it would not go.  
Like many of the Abbe Sieyès' "con-  
stitutions", which it was easy to  
make, & so difficult to make march.  
He suffered the agonies of inferno, for  
24 hours, ~~perishing~~ & working  
& fasting & turning, — in vain.

At length their Abandonment sent  
him to bed. He slept & dreamed  
he heard a voice - "shalt the  
Thaps, Mon, Johnnie! Why the  
deil dinna ye shalt the Thaps?"  
for lack of some such little thing  
it is, that all machinery gets  
out of gear, or can't be got into  
gear & the like. & my few  
dollars saved at your expense  
dear friend, - among others, -  
will be chalk & wheel-grease,  
& soap for the ways. I am  
rejoiced to hear of your ~~letter~~ meeting  
as so completely satisfactory. Garrison  
is a real Bishop of souls. I am  
more than rejoiced at your vigorous  
resolutions about the Standard. I  
don't wonder if I had seen, five years  
earlier, that I was in the way,  
by my, national efforts for the  
Banning, of more efficient man-  
agement in its behalf, it would have

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3

Had a great circulation by this  
time. There is absolutely nothing  
in the way of that, nor has there  
been for these five years, - but  
just such a lack of the faculties  
that "bring forth judgment unto  
victory." If I am slow to see,  
give me at least the credit of  
acting the instant I do see. &  
then again I put in as ex-  
ecutory, that I could never be  
quite certain how far to push  
the Standard. Its success would in  
the same measure diminish the pos-  
sibility of the Liberator, as it was the  
nature of any such paper to do,  
if pushed, - which the Com. of Immu-  
nization wished in an unnatural man-  
ner to accomplish. So it must run  
so farther than it can go through  
the Liberator's influence. Any  
movement that the Society as such  
took all its boards & Coms. with  
the Standard to have 25,000

Subscribers, it could have had them.  
But we make the mistake of  
willing the end, & leave the  
Means to Providence. The reverse  
is the order of Providence, which  
has its own ends in view - freedom  
being the indispensable, primary  
Necessity in regard to them all -  
leaving the Means to us. We  
provide the Standard as a means  
of means: - but we must keep  
teaching onward, microscopically as  
well as telescopically, for the three  
forms, - & we are always liable  
to overlook it, on account of its  
smallness; & to forget that next  
to a failure in principle, a mistake  
in conduct is most to be deprecated.  
There is where we have made our  
failures, all these 30 years. We lack,  
- as is natural to Moralists, Ministers,  
lawyers, women, - (all young  
when we began, & cut off, & made



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to be unpractised, by our very  
fidelity to principle & the esprit de  
conduite, more than any thing  
else. It has always been so. —

The Children of the world of August  
no, whose Jesus Christ looked  
as being wiser in their way than  
his Disciples were in theirs, were  
not, ~~for many~~, the first examples of  
it nor shall we probably be so  
in ours. For myself I have always  
said, "I know only that I am  
like a jar in the thick dark of the  
night. — give me but light. —"

As we move towards the dawn,  
we shall get it, in broader & broader  
bursts, as we are capable of  
receiving it. I look ever for  
tomorrow to rebuke my littleness  
of here to day; — While

Though the deep canes of thought I hear a  
voice that sings —  
Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul —  
As the swift seasons roll!

Leane

Leave thy low-wanted past!  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,  
Shut thee from Heaven with a dome  
More vast!

We shall not, I think have  
a fair here in Grey mounts? —  
Not that we would not have  
one if we could, — but we never  
had one of our own really,  
many as we have advertised &  
just through. We only sold re-  
mainders of the Boston Fair.  
And when it became best to  
stop them, for the reason that  
all that made them attractive  
was bought by our order in  
Europe, — it was a mere trifle,  
& made the cause a servant  
of pro-slavery: — just as  
our Festival now makes a  
half-way house for people who  
dislike us for offering it, — & who



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drop the cause a fine dollar  
 bill as one might a 50¢ to a  
 Cerberus. All others than these  
 are 1<sup>st</sup> the Old friends, — who  
 would rather pay to the Am. A. S. Soc  
 itself. — 2<sup>d</sup> the Foreign friends who  
 have only condescended to the Festival  
 because I told them it would oblige  
 me if they would. 3<sup>d</sup> the half-friends  
 who have paid every cent they  
 could before borrow to the Army,  
 & 4<sup>th</sup> the Republican friends who  
 swear by Andrew & think we  
 have wronged him. By a plan  
~~proposed by~~ <sup>proposed by</sup> outside  
 20 years of steady movement  
 towards the treasury of the Am Soc.  
 have, at length <sup>have</sup> ~~acquired~~ <sup>acquired</sup> it an  
 annual subscription, not de-  
 pendent on ~~Massachusetts~~ trade or  
 Lecturing. And I see my own way  
 as clear as day, not to initiate  
 either. I degrade the Society now,  
 to ask money to be given to my  
 hands; on the ground that I

am more mercaphonal.  
I never placed it. But when  
the world does so place it, it  
does not become one, as a  
Comrade in arms, to receive it.  
I do not agree with Wendell's  
war-~~party~~-England policy. But  
I find it unbecoming to sell  
Censures, any more than  
indulgencies. I might have  
raised any amount, by  
doing so. I do not agree  
with the policy of labeling the  
Republicans as the worst  
Enemies; Slave hoards; infamous  
upon slight temptation; ingenuitously  
in their choice of chief magis-  
trates. I might have raised  
again, any amount by say-  
ing so. I am not a trafficker  
in Censures. What I do under



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These circumstances, I feel it  
 best to do in the closest &  
most immediate connection  
 with the Society. And as its  
 Policy is undetermined in these  
 months, I shall not labour  
 to determine it. Am I not  
sure of every friend, that he  
does as fast as he sees? —

These are not a set of hyp-  
 ocrites to be exposed; nor are  
 personal friends & family-  
 relations to be <sup>advantageously</sup> arraigned in  
 public for mistakes, nor taken  
 to task for blunders or blindness,  
 by any standing in such rela-  
 tions to them. The world may crit-  
 icise them to better advantage  
 than I, ~~or they~~ who are not  
 a critic. Why not, in the present

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Mrs Chapman  
Nov 8/64



7

Supreme how, he willing that  
each should carry out his own  
policy in his own way? I  
am, for one, — seeing that  
we are as a fact, so much in-  
dividualized that we cannot, prob-  
ably agree to take any new  
step, or any forward step that  
is to say, in concert? Why not  
"March on our post" — till some  
thing occurs to take us out of a  
Pickwickian position? —

When I see how friends here  
& there all over the country  
are almost heart-broken to think  
that there are those alive who  
<sup>cannot agree with them in</sup>  
<sup>supposing</sup> that the petty means of '35  
can still suffice the altered circum-  
stances & man exigencies of '65. <sup>though</sup> I  
do not feel it my duty to make  
a propaganda in their behalf, I  
yet do not feel any more inclined to

Make a propaganda for them sub-  
juration; - some things may be  
safely left to take care of them-  
selves. I do not wonder that  
the means for the use of which  
our dear friends either in  
Boston or Philadelphia have  
their Church or their world, should  
seem to them so vitally  
important. If I had ever had  
a Church or a world, or an A.S.  
Society either, that was as a  
public to me, I see how I should  
feel just so, too. But the time  
has gone by when it is of im-  
portance that our organization  
should be held together any  
longer than it likes to hang  
together; - for it is not, though  
it might have been, - an  
imperium in imperio. It does  
not matter that it has missed  
that arduous duty; - for it never

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MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN.



8

claimed to be qualified for the  
discharge of such a one, &  
the odds of a success will,  
I am sanguine enough  
to believe, be saved from slavery  
by what has already been done.

All hail, thou coming gen-  
eration, that shall take up the  
work where our unqualified hands  
must leave it.

In one of your valued  
letters you speak of our im-  
portance as guardians of the  
entranced millions. It seems  
to me as if we should be feared  
by the opposite of useful to  
them in an associated ca-  
pacity. Government must  
become responsible for them,  
does become so, by the act of  
Emancipation, & will be

More accessible to us, more  
readily influenced by us, (we  
being what we are - not disposed  
to fraternize with it, -) as  
individuals than as an Am  
A.S. Association. I agree with  
every word you say about  
our work as preachers being  
done: - So I think will be  
our work as a ~~refined~~ <sup>refined</sup> friends  
Society. The Military world will  
be that. Think of Col Devens,  
the very man who as Marshall  
or something, - carried off fines, &  
paid a thousand dollars to try to  
have him saved at the same time  
standing with the remnant of  
his slaughtered regiment on the  
further side of the Potomac, -  
that any were saved indebted  
to a poor black man who  
could furnish him with a leaky  
boat. I see him, from hence,

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taking from man after  
man his money in charge  
as they put off till loaded  
with ~~the~~ all, with the enemy  
advancing behind & the river  
before, & the man safe on the  
other side, he is obliged to sink  
it all to save it from the Rebel-  
force, before trussing himself, as  
the last, as his place was, - to  
the river. I have no doubt  
he will be a better Negro's  
friend than I, who don't know  
Colours, - <sup>was</sup> ~~a~~ colour-blind -  
& have only taken up  
this cause as that of all  
Men. One thing only I am mainly  
anxious for now however, as a  
matter of individual duty: - to be in  
the way of no others, in doing what  
they see good; - leaving undone mean-  
while, nothing that seems to me good; -  
& thus, I think, we can all be  
sharers in the jubilee of heart with which

all behind this work sweep-  
 ing onward that all have so  
 long wrought at. "As you were  
 is the only order that can be  
 followed, - but

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 mate channels, of the acknowledged religious and poli-  
 tical principles of this country, slavery might be abo-  
 lished and the whole land made happy and united;  
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 enfranchisement.

There is no longer any need of describing  
 the brutal system of slavery that, since 1789, has been  
 demoralizing the country. A lifetime—under violence.

no one need be  
 haunted by those  
 memories. We were never  
 a refinement  
 that I should  
 be treason for  
 each to work  
 in his own  
 way. And

What one delivers  
 War - Breches,  
 & another non-  
 resistance ones,  
 another is equally  
 true to hold fast  
 & say nothing;

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 been unable to prevent, may still, by timely coöperation  
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 service, like that which for the last seven and twenty  
 years the American Anti-Slavery Society has by this

or again to hold festivals - or  
 again to please wheels & chalk thraps.  
 I am always your obliged friend  
 W. W. Chapman.

addenda.

I forgot to say how much I enjoyed that account of your meeting in the Standard. Garrison is bringing up the rear like a good captain. "Our dear Chief" (as Florence Nightingale calls Sydney Herbert) is one to be proud of. He is so great as a social reformer, that, as H. M. S. says, in her sketch of him in the "Once a Week," "he is too great as such, to be a representation man at present, however his example may raise up a class hereafter." I wonder why he have never republished that sketch? — I dare say John & I did not see it, I presume



would not fine it out for their  
Lib. We are doing pretty well  
as to money. Mrs Reed, my  
dear old friend of so many  
Years, sends us £40. she had  
to send us a box of six penny  
traceries for the Lib. "Ask &  
he shall receive" - but ask not  
Amos. Never solicit. Show Cause.

H. M.'s letters cost us nothing  
& I could get a continuation  
of our Paris letters, which have  
always been gratuitous; but I do  
not like to offer them, because  
I know how Johnson is pressed  
by the more important home matters.  
Johnson tells me that H. M.'s letters  
give great dissatisfaction to hundreds  
of hundreds of Americans who detest  
dogmatism & assumptions, &  
know themselves honest in their advocacy  
of protection, & think she accuses them  
of personal vice, when she says they  
advocate a vicious system which  
builds up one class at the expense of  
the rest, & much more; - & I dare  
say he is correct. But he has only

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[illegible]



paid her manner of writing, i.e. after one having any other, I got like a  
man of letters to be very well. I thought much of your  
Liberalism in England & in  
the continent & its plans, policy,  
workings & progress: & in the shape  
of a column of summary, *raisonnée*.  
We did not think it necessary, &  
when the Standard was founded,  
made the same proposition, with  
the same result. When Mr Johnson  
became sole editor, I made the  
same proposition & offered to  
write the summary. He thought  
it would be always old news, &  
declined, under the plea that the  
Committee had very early decided  
against it. Then I asked for  
correspondents. That was acceptable  
at the time; but the affair lies in  
a shape as to responsibility,  
& could only withdraw the  
Editor's correspondence, & not the  
English, which the Ex. Com. are by  
no means responsible for, having requested  
whereas I offered the *Revue*, & so  
I will all work itself to an  
end. The Committee will ~~work~~ be terminated.  
either way will be well. Only I found  
it as one likely to go on, because it is an  
opportunity, & to have a costly one. And I am of

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